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They Stand For Us **SYMBOLS OF MISSOURI**

A Resource Book for Missouri Students

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Greetings from the Missouri State Capitol!

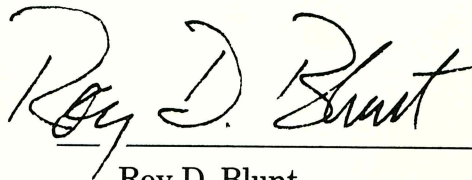
As a Missourian, I am extremely proud of the heritage and unique diversity our state offers each of us.

Located where the great waterways and modern highways of our country come together, Missouri holds a special place in our nation's history as the "Gateway to the West." It has been the birthplace or home of many outstanding figures in American history, including President Harry Truman, scientist and educator George Washington Carver, generals John J. Pershing and Omar Bradley, authors Mark Twain and Laura Ingalls Wilder, painters George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton, and many others.

Missouri's economic diversity is well-illustrated by the fact that, for most of the last decade, we were second only to Michigan in automobile production and second to Texas in the number of beef cattle produced.

Missouri has a great past and the potential for an even greater future. I hope this book interests you in learning more about Missouri's past and becoming part of Missouri's future.

Best wishes as you learn more about Missouri.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Roy D. Blunt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Roy D. Blunt
Secretary of State

They Stand For Us
SYMBOLS OF MISSOURI

A Resource Book for Missouri Students



Prepared by
ROY D. BLUNT
SECRETARY of STATE
and the
MISSOURI HERITAGE FOUNDATION
through a contribution of the
HALLMARK CORPORATE FOUNDATION

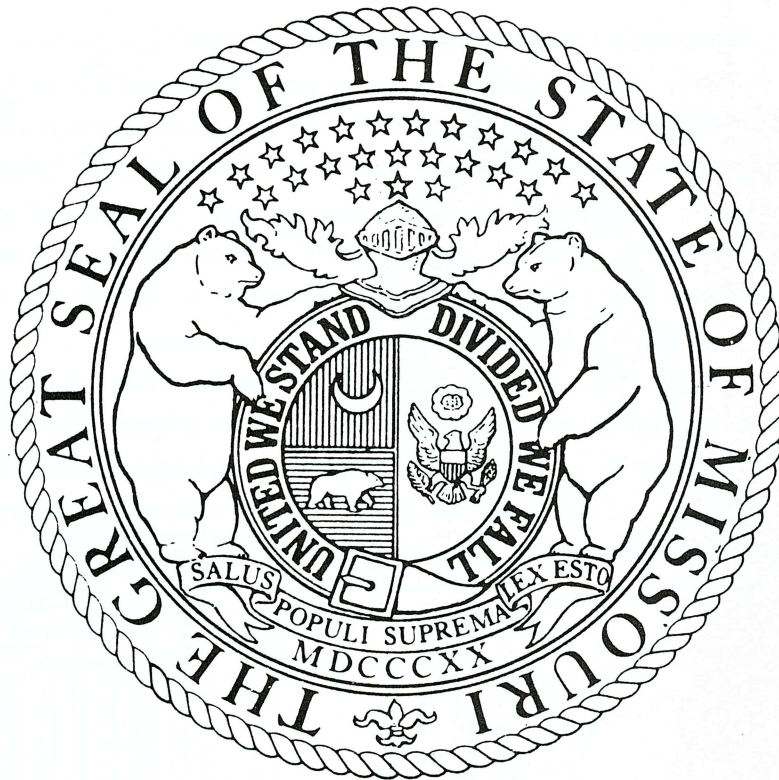
Illustrated by
Kristeen K. Cox

THE GREAT SEAL

The Great Seal of the State of Missouri is a symbol made up of many other symbols. Judge Robert William Wells, who designed the seal, gave each element a special meaning.

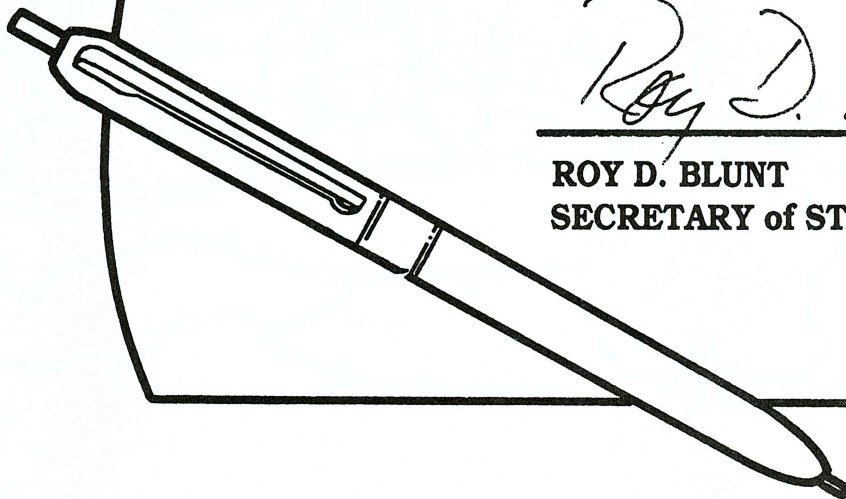
Circling the Great Seal is the state's motto: "Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto" which is Latin for "Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law." The two large bears stand for courage and strength; the 24 stars show that Missouri was the 24th state to be admitted to the Union.

The Great Seal is used to authenticate official acts of the government. The Secretary of State, entrusted as the official "keeper" or custodian of the Seal, affixes or embosses its likeness on documents and special papers. The first Great Seal was authorized on January 11, 1822.



Roy D. Blunt

ROY D. BLUNT
SECRETARY of STATE



THE STATE CAPITOL

Missouri's present State Capitol is actually the state's third in Jefferson City. After the second capitol burned in 1911, the people of Missouri decided to build the grandest in the country, using stone mined from quarries near Carthage. The Capitol has many magnificent features--the rotunda, the stained glass windows, the murals and paintings and photographs of legislators. Two museums display items from Missouri's past and help explain the state's history and resources.

The Capitol is where our elected leaders meet to discuss the laws and programs which affect Missourians. The House of Representatives and the Senate meet to debate proposed laws in their own chambers, and the governor and other statewide elected officials have offices in the Capitol as well.



THE STATE FLAG

The Missouri state flag was designed by Marie Elizabeth Oliver, from Cape Girardeau. The flag consists of three large horizontal stripes of red, white and blue. In the center white stripe is the Missouri coat-of-arms. Thanks to the efforts of Missouri students, Mrs. Oliver's original flag has been restored and is on display in Jefferson City. The legislature adopted Mrs. Oliver's design as the official state flag on March 22, 1913.



THE STATE BIRD

The Bluebird

A symbol of happiness and a friend to farmers, the native bluebird is Missouri's state bird. With a distinctive red, white and blue coloring, the bluebird is easily recognized. The Missouri legislature passed a law naming the bluebird as the state bird on March 30, 1927.

THE STATE TREE

The Flowering Dogwood

The flowering dogwood is Missouri's state tree. Found throughout the state, the dogwood is most beautiful during the spring, when its pink or white blossoms brighten both wild areas and city landscapes. The flowering dogwood became Missouri's state tree on June 20, 1955.



THE STATE INSTRUMENT

The Fiddle

The fiddle was an important part of Missouri life for many years, providing the entertainment at hoedowns or community events. The fiddle is also known as a violin; it just depends what kind of music you want to play on it. The fiddle was chosen the state musical instrument on July 17, 1987.

THE STATE SONG

The Missouri Waltz

“The Missouri Waltz” is the state’s official song, although not everyone agrees on its origins. One famous Missourian—President Harry Truman—was not very fond of the song, saying it wasn’t very good music, but it became our state song during his term in the White House. “The Missouri Waltz” was chosen our state song on June 30, 1949.



THE STATE FLOWER

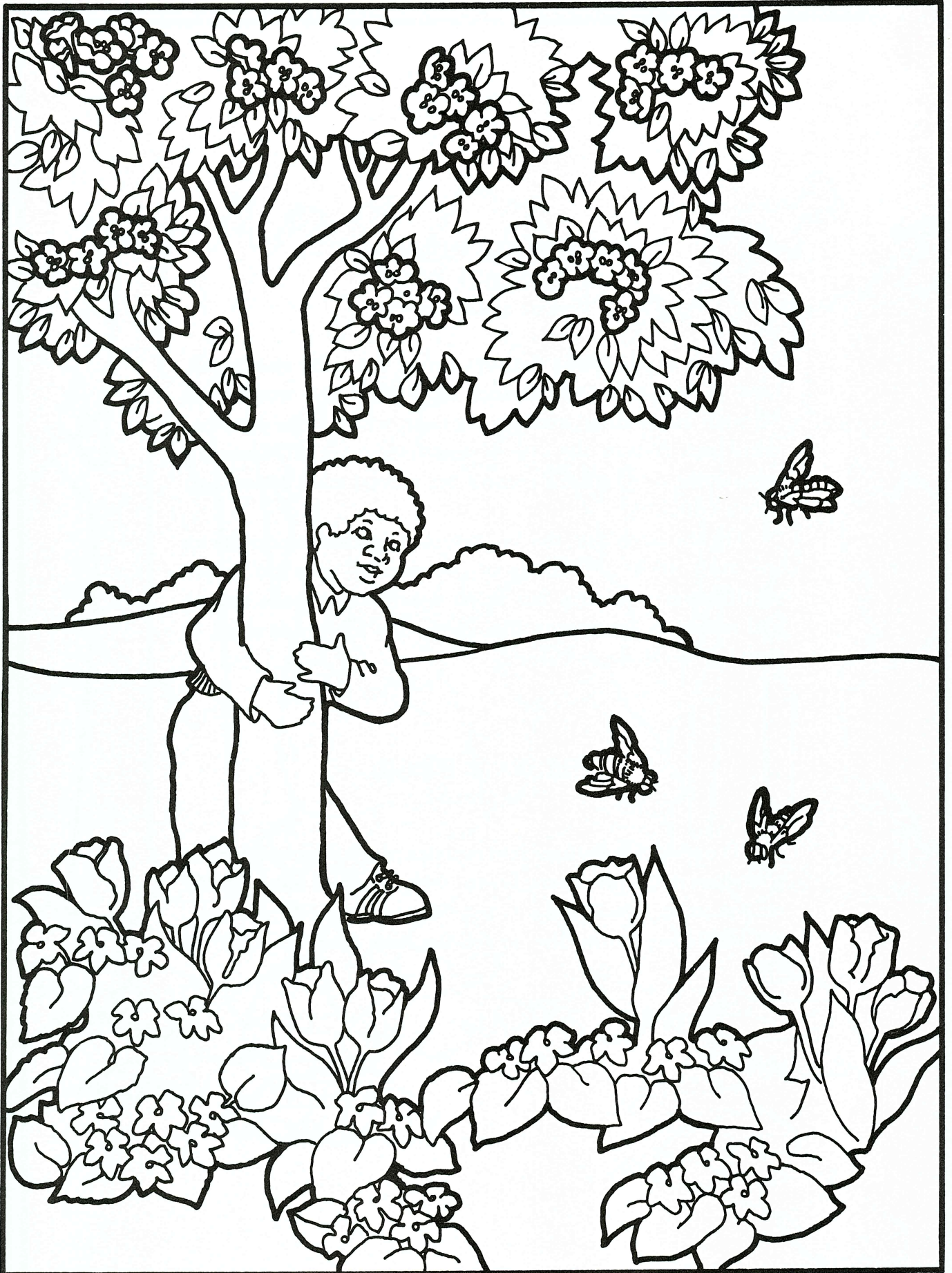
The Hawthorn

Missouri's state flower grows on a tree. The white hawthorn has a thorny trunk and produces beautiful clustered blossoms in the spring. More than 75 species of the hawthorn are found throughout Missouri. The white hawthorn blossom became Missouri's state flower on March 16, 1923.

THE STATE INSECT

The Honeybee

The honeybee is Missouri's state insect. The industriousness of honeybees, which help pollinate crops as well as provide honey, convinced the General Assembly that the insect would be a suitable symbol for Missourians. The honeybee became our state insect on July 3, 1985.



THE STATE MINERAL
AND STATE ROCK

Galena and Mozarkite

Much of Missouri's heritage comes from the state's soil. Lead is an important product throughout the world, and Missouri is a leading producer of galena, which is the principal ore of lead. Because the mineral was so important to Missouri's mining industry, galena became the official state mineral on July 21, 1967.

On the same day, the legislature recognized mozarkite as the state rock. Unlike galena, mozarkite has no major significance in mining, but when polished can make unique and attractive ornaments. Mozarkite, also known as chert, is found in the Missouri Ozarks.

THE STATE FOSSIL

The Crinoid

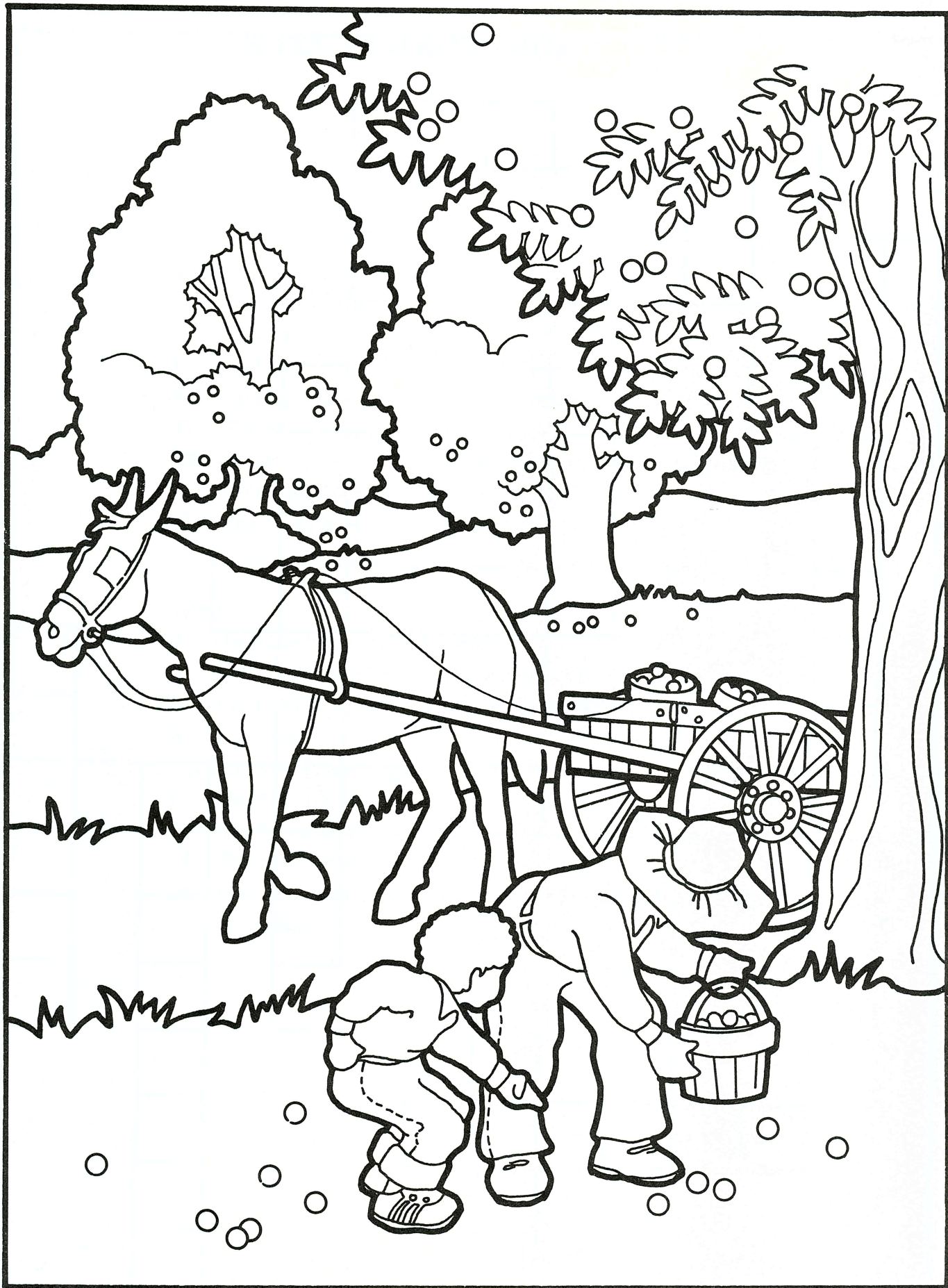
The crinoid is the fossilized remains of sea lilies which were abundant in the prehistoric oceans which covered Missouri 250 million years ago. Thanks to the efforts of Missouri students, the legislature named the crinoid the state fossil on April 18, 1989.



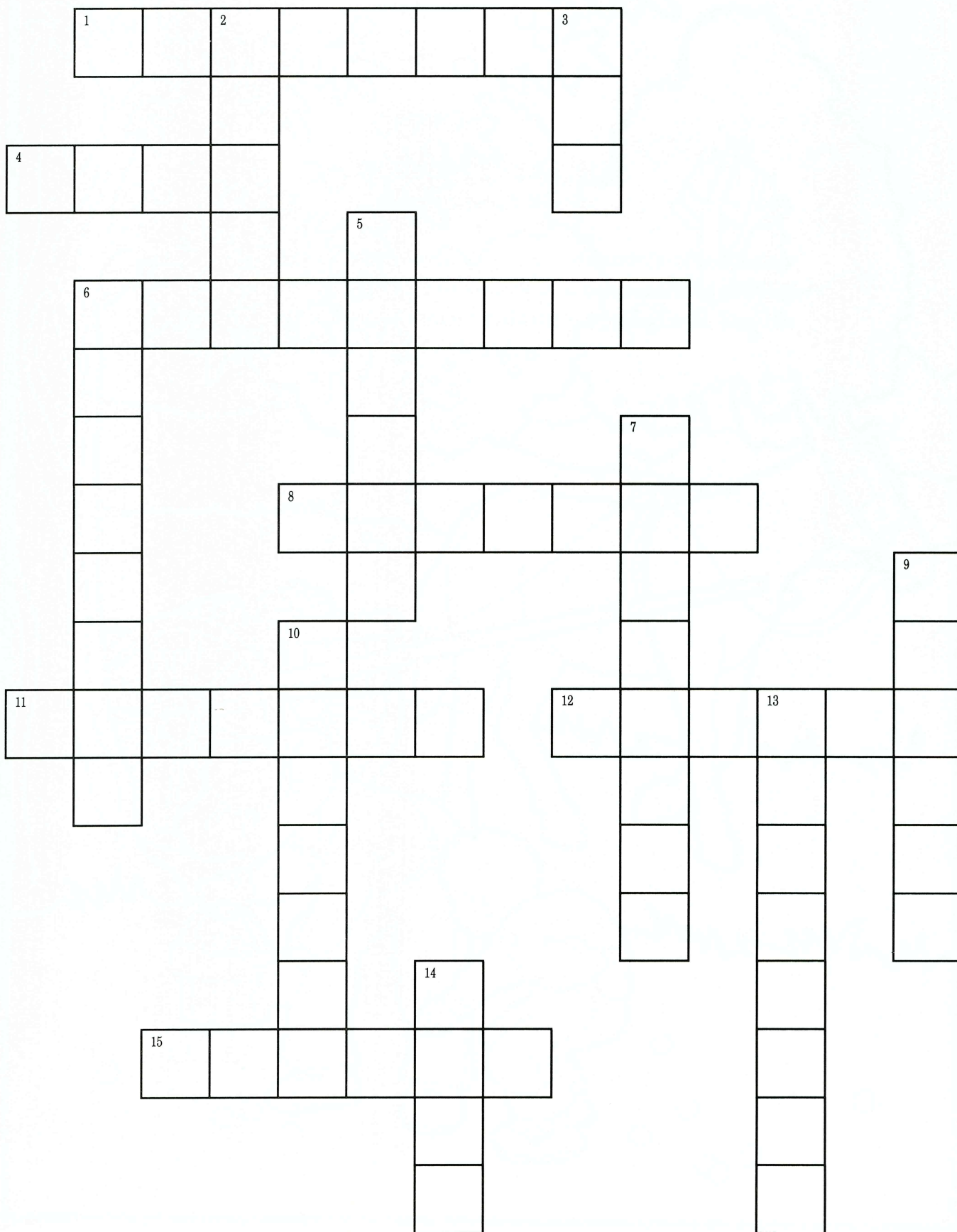
THE STATE TREE NUT

Eastern Black Walnut

The eastern black walnut became Missouri's official state tree nut on July 9, 1990. The walnut is a delicious food product and its shell is used in several industrial applications. Lumber from the tree is also highly valued.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across:

1. The State Flower.
4. The Great _ _ _ _.
6. The State Rock.
8. Building which houses state government.
11. The State Fossil.
12. A state _ _ _ _ _ is an object, idea or expression that represents Missouri.
15. The State Musical Instrument.

Down:

2. The State Song: "The Missouri _ _ _ _ _".
3. The eastern black walnut is the state tree _ _ _ .
5. A famous Missourian who became president.
6. Our State.
7. The State Insect.
9. The State Mineral.
10. The State Tree.
13. The State Bird.
14. Originally designed by Mrs. Marie Elizabeth Oliver of Cape Girardeau.

